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31 May 1983

I am writing to you at the request of the Chairman of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances because we have been informed that you might be able to assist us in contacting relatives of persons who reportedly disappeared in East Timor.

As you may know the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances was established by the Commission on Human Rights in 1980 and since then it has received some 20 cases of disappearances in East Timor transmitted to it by a non-governmental organization. The Government of Indonesia has not provided any information on these cases. Last year the Government suggested that the Working Group contact the International Committee of the Red Cross. Attached you will find copies of the sections relating to Indonesia from the reports on the Working Group.

The Working Group would be greatly assisted if it could be placed in contact with the relatives of the missing persons in order to assure itself that it has received all the available information. I thus attach a list of the persons whose disappearances have been reported to the Working Group but with whose relatives the Group is not in contact. Your help in establishing contact with these relatives or with the relatives of any other missing persons would be greatly appreciated.

Enclosed please also find a note on submitting information to the Working Group as well as a suggested format for such information. Please do not hesitate to contact us for any further information or clarification.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas E. McCarthy
Secretary

Working Group on Enforced or
Involuntary Disappearances

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Pilomeno Alves

Born approximately 1956. Prior to Indonesian invasion in December 1975, was a student at the Lyceo in Dili and member of the Fretilin student organization, UNETIM. Surrendered to Indonesian troops in Maubisse in January 1979. Held in San Tai Ho prison in Dili until April 1979. Disappeared shortly after release from San Tai Ho.

Anibal Araujo

Surrendered to Indonesian troops in early 1978. Sent to San Tai Ho prison in Dili directly after surrender, where reportedly tortured. After release, worked for the Indonesians as a driver. Disappeared February 1979.

Antonio Cavarino (also known as Mau Lear)

Captured by Indonesian troops in February 1979. Had studied law in Lisbon and returned to East Timor shortly before outbreak of civil war between Fretilin and U.D.T. factions in August 1975. Appointed Vice-President of Fretilin and Fretilin Minister of Justice. Appeared on television in Dili shortly after capture, then disappeared.

Joao Conceicao

Surrendered to Indonesian troops with wife and children in December 1979. Reported to have disappeared in February 1979.

Linho Da Costa

Formerly a sergeant in Portuguese army. Surrendered to Indonesian troops in June 1979. Taken to hospital in Baucau.

Dulce Maria Da Cruz

Captured with three-year-old child in March 1979 in Luca. Taken to Dili and detained. Nothing has been heard of her since. A former student in Lisbon Ms Da Cruz had been appointed principal of a primary school in Dili in October 1974. In January 1975, she was selected by the Portuguese administration to sit on a Commission for Educational Reform. She was a member of the Fretilin Central Committee with responsibility for Education and Culture. She would now be approximately 30 years old.

Eduardo Dos Anjos

Disappeared immediately after surrender to Indonesians in early 1979. Formerly worked in the Department of Public Works under the Portuguese administration. Was appointed Minister of Communications and Transport in the Fretilin Government formed on 28 November 1975.

Manecas Exposto

Surrendered to Indonesian troops with Filomeno Alves in Maubisse in January 1979. Prior to the Indonesian invasion, was student at the Lyceo in Dili and member of the Fretilin student organization, UNETIM. Detained in San Tai Ho prison until April 1979. Disappeared shortly after release.

Antonio Gusmao

Surrendered to Indonesian troops in Luca in April 1979. Imprisoned in Ossu for a three-month period during which visited by family. Disappeared whilst in detention in June 1979.

Jose Alexandre Gusmao

Cousin of Antonio Gusmao with whom he surrendered in Luca in April 1979. Reportedly disappeared in May 1979.

Leopoldo Joaquim

Surrendered in Same in early 1978. Surrender publicised by the Indonesians. Detained for several months in San Tai Ho prison in Dili. After release, required to report daily to local military command. In April 1979, taken by Indonesian troops and escorted to house of his niece, Maria Gorete Joaquim (see below). Both Leopoldo and Maria Gorete Joaquim were then taken away, purportedly to work in Baucau. Neither has been seen or traced since. Leopoldo was a member of the Fretilin Central Committee.

Maria Gorete Joaquim

Detained for six months after the Indonesian invasion for her role in the Fretilin student organization, UNETIM. Disappeared with Leopoldo Joaquim (See above). Was 17 years old at the time of her disappearance.

Sebastiao Montalvao

Surrendered in Hera in 1979, since when has been missing. Under the Portuguese, worked in the telecommunications section of the post office. Member of Fretilin Central Committee.

Joao Bosco Quintao

Captured by Indonesian troops in December 1977 after being shot in the leg. Imprisoned for two months in San Tai Ho prison in Dili. After release lived in parents' house until in May/June 1979 was taken from the house by Indonesian soldiers. Has been missing ever since. Had been a member of the military police in the Portuguese army. Was 25 years old at the time of disappearance.

Afonso Radentor

Surrendered in December 1977 with Alarico Fernandes, Fretilin Minister of the Interior. Under the Portuguese administration worked as an airport employee. Aged about 34 at time of disappearance.

Domingos da Costa Ribeiro

Disappeared immediately after surrender to Indonesians in December 1978. Formerly a sergeant in the Portuguese army. Appointed Fretilin Vice-Minister of Communications and Transport.

Sebastiano Doutel Sarmento

Surrendered with Domingos da Costa Ribeiro in December 1978. Disappeared immediately after surrender. Formerly a sergeant in the Portuguese army.

Joao Andrade Sarmento

Surrendered in Uato-Carabau with wife and wight children in October or November 1978. Resumed work as nurse in Lospalos. In June 1979, was summoned by the Indonesian military authorities and has not been seen since. Member of Fretilin Central Committee. Aged approximately 45 years old at time of disappearance .

Joao Baptista de Jesus Soares

Held for six months in San Tai Ho prison after surrendering in early 1978, in Bobonaro. Remained at conditional liberty until April or May 1979 when he was picked up from his home by Indonesian soldiers. Aged about 40 years old at the time of his disappearance, Soares fought with Portuguese army in Portuguese Guinea (now Guinea-Bissau).

Joao Bosco Soares

Surrendered in Alas in June 1979 with child and pregnant woman. Report in November 1979 said he had disappeared from Dili and was feared dead. Formerly a sergeant in the Portuguese army, Soares was approximately 34 years old at the time of his disappearance

Agostino Tilman

Surrendered with wife and children in March 1979.

Eduardo Ximenes

Surrendered to Indonesian troops with Antonio Gusmao and others, in Luca in April 1979. Formerly Fretilin secretary in Baucau.

David Ximenes

Among those arrested by Indonesian troops after attack by East Timorese on an army outpost on the outskirts of Dili on 10 June 1980. Subsequent whereabouts unknown. Formerly a second lieutenant in the Portuguese army, was recruited into the Indonesian army. At the time of his arrest, was running a car hire/taxi service in Dili.